

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 13 and 18-22, and add new claim 25 as shown below.

Listing of the Claims:

1 (Original). A method for the manufacture of a tubular spacer for bone defects, the spacer comprising a first rim on its first end and a second rim on its opposite second end, the method comprising:

providing a cylindrical body having open ends, each end having a rim;
modifying at least one end of the cylindrical body to change its cross sectional area.

2 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises expanding a rim of the cylindrical body.

3 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises expanding a section of the body adjacent to the first rim with the expansion commencing at the first end.

4 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises narrowing a rim of the cylindrical body.

5 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises narrowing a section of the body adjacent to the first rim with the expansion commencing at the first end.

6 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises expanding the first rim of the cylindrical and narrowing the second rim of the cylindrical body.

7 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises expanding a first section of the body adjacent to the first rim with the expansion commencing at the first end and narrowing a second section of the body adjacent to the second rim with the expansion commencing at the second end.

8 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises expanding a first section of the body adjacent to the first rim with the expansion commencing at the first end and expanding a second section of the body adjacent to the second rim with the expansion commencing at the second end.

9 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises narrowing a first section of the body adjacent to the first rim with the expansion commencing at the first end and narrowing a second section of the body adjacent to the second rim with the expansion commencing at the second end.

10 (Original). A method according to claim 1, further comprising shaping the cross-section of the first rim to differ from the cross-section of the second rim.

11 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises expanding a first section of the body by pushing-in a mandrel.

12 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises expanding a first section of the body by pushing the first end into a hollow die.

13 (Currently amended). A spacer for bone defects comprising a tubular body having a first end, a first rim at the first end, a second end, a second rim at the second end, a longitudinal axis, a perimeter defining a jacket wall extending in the direction of the axis, a first body section adjacent the first rim and a second body section adjacent the second rim, wherein a plane tangent to the jacket wall of the first body section intersects the longitudinal axis.

14 (Original). The spacer of claim 13, wherein the jacket wall comprises a plurality of recesses.

15 (Original). The spacer of claim 14, wherein the recesses are rhomboid shaped recesses.

16 (Original). The spacer of claim 14, wherein the rhomboid-shaped recesses are arranged in groups such that the recesses in a group are adjacent to each other in the direction of the circumference.

17 (Original). The spacer according to Claim 16, wherein the jacket wall comprises the shape of a rhomboid lattice.

18 (Currently amended). The spacer of claim 13, wherein the tangent plane forms an angle with the ~~longitudinal~~ longitudinal axis that diverges in a direction of the first end.

19 (Currently amended). The spacer of claim 13, wherein the tangent plane forms an angle with the ~~longitudinal~~ longitudinal axis that converges in a direction of the first end.

20 (Currently amended). The spacer according to claim 13, wherein the tangent plane forms an angle with the ~~longitudinal~~ longitudinal axis that diverges in a direction of the first end and wherein a second plane, which is tangent to the jacket wall of the second body section, intersects the longitudinal axis, the second tangent plane forming an angle with the ~~longitudinal~~ longitudinal axis that converges in a direction of the first end.

21 (Currently amended). A method for connecting two bone parts, the method comprising:

- providing a length of tubular spacer sufficient to connect the bone parts, the spacer comprising a tubular body having a first end, a first rim at the first end, a second end, a second rim at the second end, a ~~longitudinal~~ longitudinal axis, a perimeter defining a jacket wall extending in the direction of the axis, a first body section adjacent the first rim and a second body section adjacent the second rim, wherein a plane tangent to the jacket wall of the first body section intersects the longitudinal axis;

- inserting the length of tubular spacer ~~between~~ between the bone parts to be connected; and

- applying a compression force to the tubular spacer positioned between the two bone parts.

22 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 21, wherein the step of providing a length of tubular spacer comprises:

- providing cylindrical tubular jacket material;

- cutting the cylindrical tubular jacket material to said length; and

- expanding or narrowing the first and second ends of the ~~tubular~~ tubular spacer to adjust to the bone parts being connected.

23 (Original). The method according to claim 21, comprising a step of filing the spacer with bone chips or artificial material.

24 (Original). A kit for repairing bones, the kit comprising:

- cylindrical tubular jacket material;
- one or more abutment plates;
- a mandrel having a tapered insertion section for expanding the end of a section of cylindrical tubular jacket material; and
- a hollow die having a tapered section for narrowing the end of a section of cylindrical tubular jacket material.

25 (New). A spacer for bone defects comprising a tubular body having a first end, a first rim at the first end, a second end, a second rim at the second end, a longitudinal axis, a perimeter defining a jacket wall extending in the direction of the axis, a first body section adjacent the first rim and a second body section adjacent the second rim, wherein a plane tangent to the jacket wall of the first body section intersects the longitudinal axis, the spacer being manufactured by a method comprising:

- providing a cylindrical body having open ends, each end having a rim; and
- modifying at least one end of the cylindrical body to change its cross sectional area.